

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 29, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 4246.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4246) granting a pension to Bridget Lynch, have examined the same, and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4246) granting a pension to Bridget Lynch, submit the following report:

Bridget Lynch is the widow of Thomas Lynch, who served as a private in Company A, Seventy-seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteers, from January 5, 1864, until June 17, 1865, when he was mustered out with a detachment of paroled prisoners. He was captured April 8, 1864, sent to Fort Tyler, Tex., where he was kept in confinement until May 27, 1865. While a prisoner of war he contracted chronic diarrhea from which he suffered severely at date of discharge and thereafter, as conclusively shown by the evidence on file.

About July, 1866, while still disabled from the army disease, he left his home at Peoria, Ill., to seek employment on a railroad then being built in Iowa. Not hearing from him for more than three months after his departure, his wife, the claimant, she being in poor health, with financial aid of neighbors went to Burlington, Iowa, for which place he started, to search for her missing husband. There she ascertained from some railroad employes, who had come from the end of the road then under construction, that her husband had died about 60 miles out from Burlington. She herself being in feeble health, and without means, was compelled to return home, a free pass having been furnished her by the railroad officials. The soldier has not been heard from since.

The evidence further shows that the relations existing between the soldier and the claimant were pleasant and happy, and that his only reason for leaving home was that he might be enabled to earn a support for his family in the best manner possible.

The Pension Office declines to take favorable action in the case until date and cause of the soldier's death shall have been shown. This would seem impossible under the circumstances.

There is but little, if any, doubt in the minds of your committee that the soldier died, shortly after leaving home in the summer of 1866, among strangers, from disease contracted while a prisoner of war, and therefore report favorably on the accompanying bill, and ask that it do pass.